

 <p> GIG CYMRU NHS WALES </p> <p> Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru Public Health Wales </p>	<p> Name of Meeting Knowledge, Research and Information Committee Date of Meeting 5 September 2024 Agenda item: 3.2 </p>
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<h2>Developing a Vision for Academic Public Health Research in Wales</h2>	
Executive lead:	Iain Bell, National Director of Public Health Knowledge and Research
Author:	Alisha Davies, Head of Research & Evaluation Elen de Lacy, Research and Development Lead

Approval/Scrutiny route:	To KRIC for information
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<p>Purpose</p> <p>The purpose of this paper is to outline the “Developing a Vision for Academic Public Health Research in Wales” project, which will lead to a co-produced future vision for academic public health research in Wales.</p> <p>This paper outlines <i>the current status work underway and the draft report</i>.</p> <p>The Committee has been sent this paper for their information.</p>

Recommendation:				
APPROVE <input type="checkbox"/>	CONSIDER <input type="checkbox"/>	RECOMMEND <input type="checkbox"/>	ADOPT <input type="checkbox"/>	ASSURANCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive assurance that the work on developing a vision for academic public health research is underway with appropriate governance and oversight.
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Link to Public Health Wales Strategic Plan	
<p>Public Health Wales has an agreed strategic plan, which has identified seven strategic priorities and well-being objectives.</p> <p>This report contributes to the following:</p>	
Strategic Priority/Well-being Objective	All Strategic Priorities/Well-being Objectives
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Summary impact analysis	
Equality and Health Impact Assessment	No Equality and Health Impact Assessment has been undertaken as a decision is not required by the Committee.
Risk and Assurance	Not identified as a risk on the Corporate Risk Register or Board Assurance Framework.
Health and Care Standards	This report supports and/or takes into account the Health and Care Standards for NHS Wales Quality Themes Choose an item. Choose an item. Choose an item.
Financial implications	None
People implications	The process applies to all staff undertaking research.

1. Purpose / situation

Public Health Wales (PHW) is working with key stakeholders to create a joint vision for academic public health research in Wales. The first stage of this work is examining the public health research landscape, and the to develop, with key stakeholders, a vision that harnesses Wales' unique strengths and capacity to address the health and wellbeing challenges facing our population.

In September 2023, the approach to "*Developing a Vision for Academic Public Health Research in Wales*" was shared with the Knowledge Research and Information Committee for information.

This paper provides an update on progress, shares the draft report, and outlines next steps.

2. Background

A strong academic public health research environment is fundamental to the effectiveness and sustainability of the public health system in Wales. The importance of research in contributing to population health and well-being is highlighted within Welsh Government's long-term vision 'A Healthier Wales' (2019) by the need to "*pursue quality and value through co-ordinating our research, innovation and improvement activity*" in health and care. 'Saving and Improving Lives: The Future of UK Clinical Research Delivery' (2021), also emphasises the "*need to ensure we focus our attention and our efforts on research which aims to address the most pressing population health needs*".

Developing a co-produced joint vision for academic public health research in Wales presents an opportunity to explore the strengths and weaknesses of the public health research offer, understand current or forthcoming opportunities and threats, and identify areas for development and investment as a public health research system. A co-produced vision aligns with the refreshed PHW Research and Evaluation Strategy, which asserts the organisation's aspiration to be a system facilitator and leader for population health research to support the delivery of PHW's long-term strategy.

PHW, alongside The Chief Medical Officer for Wales and Health and Care Research Wales, have endorsed this work and the outputs will help the research community alongside partners to respond optimally to the pressing health needs facing our population, with high-quality, high-impact research which shapes public health policy and practice.

3. Description/Assessment

From September 2023, PHW worked with an external consultant in public health to complete the project.

The project has been informed by an external steering group, chaired by Iain Bell, comprising of senior academic leaders from Wales and the UK with expertise across the three main public health domains. Membership included the Chief Medical Officer for Wales and Director of Health and Care Research Wales.

3.1 Progress to date

From September 2023 to June 2024 we have

- Mapped **the research landscape data** to highlight areas of research strengths, weaknesses and gaps through the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021 Impact case studies and the UK Health Research Analysis 2022 report, aligned to PHW's strategic priorities.
- Held an **Open Call for Evidence in public health research** – encouraging all Welsh Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) to participate, promoting through Universities Wales' Wales Innovation Network (WIN).
- Completed **interviews** with key senior stakeholders (n=18) including representatives from HEIs in Wales, the public sector and research funders – seeking their views about academic public health research in Wales, key strengths, challenges, and opportunities for the future.
- Completed external peer review of our findings through our Steering Group.
- Drafted a comprehensive report (See Appendix).

3.2 Next steps

- We will finalise our report in September 2024, drawing out the key themes and share in line with our ways of working within the PHW Research and Evaluation Strategy.
- We will commence phase 2, engaging with all HEIs in Wales to share the findings and facilitate the co-production of a vision for Academic Public Health in Wales.

4. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to:

- **Receive assurance** that the work on developing a vision for academic public health research is underway with appropriate governance and oversight.